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REMARKS

Claims 1-71 were previously pending in this application. By this amendment, Claims 1, 2, 23, 28, 32-35, 61, 65-68, 70, and 71 have been cancelled and Claims 3, 4, 6, 8, 10-14, 16, 19, 20, 24, 29, 31, 36, 37, 39, 41, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49, 52-57, 62 and 64 have been amended. Now new matter has been added. All claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of Claims 25-27, 68-60 and 69 and indication of allowability of Claims 6-7, 10, 12, 16, 19, 22, 29-31, 39-40, 45, 49, 52, 55 and 62-64.

Claims 6-7, 10, 12, 16, 19, 22, 29-31, 39-40, 45, 49, 52, 55 and 62-64, which were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, have been rewritten so as not to depend on the rejected base claims. In order to further the prosecution of this application, all currently pending claims have also been rewritten to depend on the allowed or allowable base claims.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 102

Claims 1-5, 8-9, 11, 14-15, 23, 34-38, 41-42, 44, 47-48, 56 and 67 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Li et al. (U.S. Patent 6,560,230 B1). This rejection is respectfully traversed. However, to further the prosecution of this application, Claims 1, 2, 23, 34-35, and 67 have been cancelled and claims 3-5, 8-9, 11, 14-15, 34, 36-38, 41-42, 44, 47-48 and 56 have been rewritten to depend on now independent Claims 6, 39 and 49, respectively. The Applicants do not concede to the Examiner's rejections and reserve the right to prosecute the canceled claims in continuation applications.

Claims 32-33, 65-66 and 71 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ganmukhi et al. (U.S. Patent 5,850,399). This rejection is respectfully traversed. However, to further the prosecution of this application, Claims 32-33, 65-66 and 71 have been cancelled. The Applicants do not concede to the Examiner's rejections of these claims and reserve the right to prosecute the canceled claims in continuation applications.

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Claims 24, 57 and 68 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bauman et al. (U.S. Patent 5,832,304). This rejection is respectfully traversed. However, to further the prosecution of this application, Claim 68 has been cancelled and claims 24 and 57 have been rewritten to depend on now independent Claims 6 and 39, respectively. The Applicants do not concede to the Examiner's rejections and reserve the right to prosecute the canceled claims in continuation applications.

Claims 28, 61 and 70 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Henrion et al. (U.S. Patent 6,469,982 B1). This rejection is respectfully traversed. However, to further the prosecution of this application, Claims 28, 61 and 70 have been cancelled. The Applicants do not concede to the Examiner's rejections and reserve the right to prosecute these claims in continuation applications.

Rejections Under 35 USC 103

Claims 13 and 46, and 17-18, 20-21, 50-51 and 53-54 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Li et al. in view of Bauman et al. (U.S. Patent 5,832,304) and Chow et al. (U.S. Patent 6,438,134 B1), respectively. These rejections are respectfully traversed. However, to further the prosecution of this application, various claims have been amended such that Claims 13 and 46, and 17-18, 20-21, 50-51 and 53-54 now depend on base claims indicated by the Examiner as allowable. The Applicants do not concede to the Examiner's rejections and reserve the right to prosecute these claims in their original form in continuation applications. All claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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